

New Student Leadership Club Takes Shape

A new opportunity for Vernonia High School students to participate in student leadership and community service is starting to become a reality.

Plans to form a new Kiwanis International Club in the Vernonia community could have an added benefit-- the formation of an affiliated Key Club.

Key Club is the oldest and largest volunteer service organization, which is student-led and teaches leadership through service to others.

Last month, three Vernonia High School students took the first steps towards organizing a Vernonia Key Club by attending a weekend Student Leadership Conference at Mt. Hood. School administrator James Brookins chaper-

oned Jackson Miller, Tasia Pond and Crystal Carreon at the event where the students participated in activities and learning opportunities, focusing on personal awareness, interpersonal group skills, and active listening.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the personal challenge course where students had to navigate climbing walls, zip lines, and even cross a stream by walking on a wire that was suspended twenty feet above the water. "They (the students) had opportunities to do things they might have been afraid to try under normal circumstances," said Brookins, "But when you put them into that group dynamic where everyone in their group is encouraging them, it's a

very positive experience."

Both Brookins and VHS Principal Nate Underwood were members of Key Club in high school, and have been very interested in bringing to Vernonia the service opportunities and community involvement opportunities that Key Club could provide. "This will be a club that is open to the entire student body," said Brookins. In other words, students do not have to be nominated or elected or be a top scholar to join.

Brookins noted that the three students chosen to attend the conference are students who have shown leadership potential but have not previously been elected to class office.

The hope is that success at the

high school level with Key Club will lead to development of a Builders Club, which is a Middle School Leadership Program and K-Kids at the grade school level-- both are also affiliated with Kiwanis International.

The Vernonia students' trip to Mt. Hood was sponsored by the St. Helens Kiwanis, which is the group working to establish the Kiwanis Club in Vernonia.

"Our long term plan is to get the kids to realize that it's not just the adults in the community, but that they can have an opportunity to make a difference too," said Brookins.

VHS Fall Sports Update

Football-A young and inexperienced Logger football team has suffered through a difficult season, going winless so far. A heartbreaking loss to Neah-Kah-Nie in double-overtime was probably the toughest to swallow. Down 12-0 in the fourth quarter, the Loggers fought back and scored twice and tied the game with less than two minutes remaining. A missed Vernonia extra point, which would have won the game, and two tough defensive stands, sent the game to overtime, where it looked like the Loggers were going to pull it out. But it was not to be, and Neah-Kah-Nie won 24-18.

The Loggers have one remaining game left against Warrenton, at home on November 6, and a chance to get that one elusive win this season.

Volleyball-The Lady Loggers have struggled this season to put together a consistent run of matches. The girls did win a great match against Neah-Kah-Nie during homecoming week and then defeated Clatskanie in their final match of the season, earning a berth in the league playoffs. On October 31, the Loggers again played Clatskanie in that playoff

match, winning 3 games to 1, and advancing to the next round, which was scheduled for Monday November 2 against Neah-Kah-Nie.

Cross Country-The Cross County squad has had a solid season, with some underclassmen making some big contributions. The Vernonia Relay, a fun annual event, was once again a success. At the District 1 Meet on October 29 all the Loggers ran well, according to Coach James Brookins. "Almost everybody ran a personal best, which is becoming a sort of District Meet tradition for us," he said. "I'm really proud of everybody." Seniors Katy Stevens and Souvanny Miller led the way for the girls, followed closely by Sami Morgan, Rowen Chaney and Crystal Carreon. For the boys, Sophomore Jackson Miller was the Logger's first finisher, followed by Paul Whiteman, Daniel Shaw, Kodi Dyer and Petr Jarinek. Freshman stand-out Nathan Fleck, who was expected to do well, was unable to run due to the flu.



VHS Students Plan Trip To Costa Rica

A group of Vernonia High School students are raising money for a two-week trip to Costa Rica in July of 2010. The trip includes a home stay with a Costa Rican family, intensive Spanish language classes, excursions to the rain forest and volcanoes, and community service at a local school.

For fundraising, the students have collected cell phones to recycle, sold masks at the VHS masquerade homecoming dance, and sold snacks during breaks at VHS. The next planned fundraiser is selling discount cards featuring local businesses. Students will be selling them at Sentry Market and at home VHS sporting events. Please support our Spanish students and Vernonia's local businesses!

2009 VHS Homecoming

